

we have two men who stepped forward last night; they stepped forward with compassion, stepped forward with confidence—confidence at the greatness of this country.

I have been through statewide recounts, two of them, one of which I lost by 524 votes; one of which I won by 428 votes. I know what close elections are all about. I know how difficult recounts are. I was very proud of both men and their families for what they put up with and how they ended the election process last night. It speaks well of them and of our country.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR SLADE GORTON

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, everyone has been focused on the Presidential election. It has been one of the most drawn out Presidential elections in U.S. history. Another election came to conclusion recently, and that was the Senate race in the State of Washington, one of the closest Senate races in many years. It took weeks to discern.

Our friend and colleague, Senator SLADE GORTON, was defeated. I want to make a couple comments concerning our colleague, Senator GORTON.

I had hoped he would not lose this race because he is a friend of mine and, in my opinion, he is one of the most outstanding Senators we have had.

By way of a little history, I was elected with Senator GORTON in 1980. Both of us were freshman Senators. He was formerly an attorney general. He gained some attention nationwide in that he and his family bicycled all the way across our country. It shows they are a close family and individuals with endurance and athletic talent.

He is an outstanding Senator. He lost reelection in 1986, unfortunately. A lot of people lost. It was a tough year. That was certainly one of the toughest losses we had. I remember stating at that time when Senator GORTON lost that he was a Senator's Senator. I hated to see him lose that race. He showed great endurance and came back in 1988 and won and also won reelection in 1994. As I mentioned, he was just defeated in a very close race in 2000.

Senator GORTON has served 18 years in the Senate. In his last two consecutive terms, he was chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee and worked on a couple of different Appropriations subcommittees. He did an

outstanding job with the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee which has enormous responsibility. He handled that with great skill and in a bipartisan way.

People ask: Can the Senate function? Can we work in a bipartisan manner? I look at Senator GORTON and his leadership on the Interior Subcommittee, working with Senator BYRD and Senator REID. He has proven it can happen and has shown how it can happen and should happen.

He is an outstanding Senator. He has handled his defeat with great class. There was a recount, and he congratulated MARIA CANTWELL as the victor. We are proud to call him our colleague and our friend. Certainly he will be missed in this body; certainly his leadership will be missed in the State of Washington.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BOB KERREY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, Senator BOB KERREY from Nebraska, as most people know, was a former Governor of Nebraska. He has completed two terms in the Senate. I, for one, hate to see him leave the Senate. I have had the pleasure of working with Senator KERREY on the Finance Committee. He has shown great courage.

He is a person who has been willing to talk about difficult issues: Curbing the growth of entitlements, Medicare, and Medicaid. He worked on the commission that was also chaired, I think, by Senators BREAUX, FRIST, and THOMAS, and was an outstanding member in saying: Let's make some of the tough choices; let's make some of those tough choices now.

He is a person who has been willing to reach out and work in a bipartisan fashion, such as on personal savings accounts for Social Security, reforming Social Security.

He has courage. He has conviction. He has shown it time and time again with his service in the Senate, with his activities in the Senate and outside the Senate.

Everyone knows he is a Medal of Honor winner. I think of him as a competitor, as a friend, as a colleague. Some of us jog on occasion. Senator KERREY jogs and jogs quite well. That is very inspirational because he also has an artificial leg.

He has a great personality. I think he has made a great contribution to the Senate. He has helped improve the quality of the Senate, and certainly he will be missed. I think he has announced he is going to be a university president. That will be very much to the gain of that university. He will be sorely missed in the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROD GRAMS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to take just a few minutes to comment on one of our friends who is leaving the Senate.

We all, of course, feel strongly about the changes that take place in this body and the people with whom we work closely, and even those with whom we do not work closely, and certainly appreciate all the things they have done while they have been here. Frankly, it is always a sad thing to have people with whom you work leave.

Of course, all Members have an impact in this body. All Members leave an imprint here and certainly in the areas they represent. Each of us has different ideas. That is the basis for our system. We bring those ideas here and seek to implement them, to the extent we can, by working with others to cause them to be implemented. We have disagreements, as we properly should have, and then we come to some decisions.

So I want to comment for a moment about my good friend ROD GRAMS who has well represented the State of Minnesota in the Senate for 6 years during the same period I have been here. He served in the House prior to that, during the same time I was there.

I think ROD has been one of the real good guys in terms of his dedication to doing the things he thought were best for the country, things he believed were best for the people of Minnesota. He has been a great legislator and an important friend to many of us.

As I mentioned, ROD GRAMS was elected to the House in 1992. He served there for one term and then was elected to the Senate in 1994. I certainly have benefited from our association ever since. ROD is a proud conservative.

ROD is one who is dedicated to the notion that there ought to be budget relief. He is dedicated to the notion that there ought to be Social Security reform. He is a champion of the \$500-per-child tax credit and is the author of many successful tax measures. I think he has made a real contribution to the direction we have taken.

Above all, however, I think that idea of having a philosophy, believing in some things that are good, and working for those things, but working for them in a way where others can also work on them with you, is really the greatest contribution any of us can make. I feel sure this institution will be poorer in the future because he is not here. But he will continue to contribute to our country.